

the person or persons who leaked her name to the press.

We know that at least one, and possibly more, executive branch officials violated their oaths to protect classified information and, in doing so, they squandered an important intelligence asset and may have jeopardized the lives of people with whom she has been in contact. American security was harmed.

Some have offered weak excuses for the disclosure, saying the person's identity was already known or her work was not really important. Those are outrageous excuses. More troubling still is the fact that this was leaked in the context of a political vendetta. According to published reports, the leaker was trying to discredit former ambassador Joe Wilson, who was disputing the administration's assertions that Saddam was trying to unleash weapons of mass destruction on the United States. Of course, we now know Wilson was right.

As President George Herbert Walker Bush stated in a speech to CIA employees a few years ago, "Those who leak the identity of intelligence operatives are the most insidious of traders." What does it say about the ethics and responsibilities of this body and the administration that attempts to find this person have been so anemic?

URGENT NEED TO STRENGTHEN SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. GINGREY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the urgent need to strengthen Social Security.

It is often said the first step to recovery is admitting you have a problem. Well, we have a problem. We have a serious problems.

Analysts predict that Social Security will be bankrupt by 2042. That may seem a far way off but, in reality, it means Social Security will not be around when today's 20-year-olds retire.

Since the 1930s, we have seen medical advances, technological advances, transportation advances, but we have not seen Social Security advances. We have to make this program sustainable for current and future demographics. We cannot do that if we are stuck using a 1935 model.

Let me be clear. When we talk about reforming the system, we are talking about strengthening Social Security for future generations, not weakening today's retirees or near retirees, who will get every single benefit they have been promised. While Social Security will not change for today's seniors, we have to fix the system for tomorrow's seniors.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle may be content to make Social Security a political issue, but I am not. Our children's future is too impor-

tant for political posturing. My concern is more about the next generation than the next election.

SOCIAL SECURITY AND AFRICAN AMERICANS

(Ms. LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, the President's very cynical attempt to sell his Social Security privatization scheme to African Americans, quite frankly, is very painful. Thank goodness African Americans are not buying it.

President Bush said that his privatization plan would benefit African Americans because we have a shorter life expectancy. It is truly remarkable that the President would rather exploit African Americans' shorter life expectancy to sell his privatization plan than actually do something to help African Americans live longer.

If the President is truly concerned about African Americans, he should support legislation and funding to address the health disparities that contribute to shorter life expectancy. Sadly, this is just the sort of cynical, divisive move we have come to expect from an administration that is bent on cutting the guaranteed benefit of Social Security and entrusting our seniors' retirement security to Wall Street and a roll of the dice.

Mr. Speaker, Julian Bond, President of the NAACP, and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) were correct to call the President on this earlier this week.

HONORING MARYLAND VETERAN OF THE YEAR ORVILLE HUGHES

(Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, we cannot live in the land of the free without thanking the brave veterans who secure our liberty. It is my privilege to honor Colonel Orville Hughes from Monkton, Maryland, selected Veteran of the Year by the Joint Veterans' Committee of Maryland.

Colonel Orville Hughes served our country for 27 years in the Army during World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. He was a POW in Germany, earned a Silver Star in Korea, and served as the military attache at the embassy in Vienna, Austria. He earned many other commendations, including the Legion of Merit and the Purple Heart.

After his retirement from the Army, Colonel Orville Hughes continued to serve our country through the DAV, VFW, Military Order of the Purple Heart, American ex-POWs, and the American Legion.

I hope that by honoring the contributions of Colonel Orville Hughes to the country we love, we will appreciate and be inspired by his great example of achievement and service to others.

DEFENDING THE CONSTITUTION AND THE JUDICIARY'S RIGHT TO MAKE DECISIONS

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is interesting, as I listened to a colleague at the beginning of our messages to the House who seemingly wanted to shut the lights off in this place and extinguish the Constitution, which reflects that we are not only a republic but we are a democracy. Democrats have a right to disagree with Social Security policies, Medicaid, Medicare, and educational policies, because this is a democracy.

Proudly so, we represent half of the United States of America, and we will continue to fight for our issues. One of those issues has to be to support this Constitution, the belief that we are a country governed by laws.

The Constitution designates under article 3 that we have a separate, independent judiciary, one that should be safely secured. Therefore, when Members of the opposite side of the aisle begin to attack court systems simply because they do not agree, they have violated the constitutional provisions that we adhere to.

It is a shame that judges are cowering in the corners because Members have decided to speak ugly against their right to make a decision. When conferences are held in Washington, D.C., and ultraconservatives begin to attack the judiciary, it is time for this congressional body to stand up and defend the Constitution.

END THE TYRANNY OF APRIL 15 ANXIETY

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, my late father used to say, you only have to do two things in life: die and pay taxes. Just about 40 minutes ago, I did one of those things, and I will let my colleagues guess which one it was.

Like millions of Americans, before midnight tomorrow night, I managed to fill out all of the forms which, for me, as a man of no significant means, a public servant married to a schoolteacher, there were only forms that I had to file in three States and with one national government. The full total of the pages that I had to fill out and file neared to 100.

Mr. Speaker, the People's House is supposed to resonate with the hearts of the American people. As we approach this tax day and go through our usual spring ritual of arguments in Washington, D.C., I hope the Congress will resonate with the heart of the American people and seize upon the opportunity to simplify this tax system and end the tyranny of anxiety that reigns throughout the land every April 15.

THE WASHINGTON LOBBYISTS

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today is an important day. It is opening day for the Washington Nationals. Baseball is back in Washington. But we ought to come up with a better name than the Washington Nationals, a name that really fits this city.

The new baseball team should be called the Washington Lobbyists. After all, who runs this town? The energy lobbyists that wrote the energy bill last night in committee, the bank lobbyists who wrote the bankruptcy bill today, the pharmaceutical lobbyists who write the medicare legislation, the Wall Street lobbyists who write the Social Security privacy legislation, and they and their Republican allies in Congress play under different rules. "It ain't over 'til it's over," unless we are losing.

At home games, the Washington Lobbyists could hold the game open, adding extra innings if they are losing at the end of the arbitrary nine. Instead of the oh-so-boring ball day and bat day, we could have Halliburton Gasoline Night: a tank of gas for the first thousand fans at the Halliburton patriotic price of \$8.95 a gallon. Or, we could have the Enron Double Header: fans get in early with promises of a big win, but then the team kicks you out and takes your pension away. Or, we could have Wal-Mart Kids Day: kids do not actually get to watch the game. Somebody has actually got to work the concession stand, after all.

Mr. Speaker, if we want to change how things work in Washington, we need a new pitching staff, and the Washington Lobbyists have to go.

CELEBRATING THE WASHINGTON NATIONALS

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, as I listened to my colleague talk about baseball, I have to say that when I first came to this town, I was told that there were two things that mattered: number one, the government; number two, the Redskins. I am so gratified that tonight we will have the opportunity to experience the opening game of the Nationals.

Now, I am a loyal Dodger fan. Tommy Lasorda has repeatedly told me that if I want to go to heaven, I must be a Dodger fan. But I want to congratulate the District of Columbia and all who have been involved in putting together this team. It has been 34 years since a baseball game has been played, a National League baseball game has been played in the District of Columbia, and we are very, very fortunate as a community to be able to focus on something other than the gov-

ernment and something other than the Redskins.

REAL SOLUTIONS FOR SOCIAL SECURITY AND THE DEFICIT

(Mrs. MALONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, irresponsible budget and tax policies have squandered the budget surpluses that President Bush inherited and turned them into a legacy of debt and deficits. Now he is trying to do the same thing to Social Security with a private accounts plan that would add trillions to our national debt.

This plan is exactly backwards. Instead of thinking up ways to weaken the Social Security Trust Fund, we should be taking steps to guarantee that the assets in the trust fund are truly there to pay future benefits. We cannot do that if we run up large deficits outside Social Security that weaken our economy and increase our foreign debt.

Anyone looking for a plan to address the Social Security problem can begin with two basic steps. First, take private accounts, privatization off the table; and, second, worry about the real crisis, which is the current budget deficit outside Social Security.

THE "GEORGE W. BUSH BUREAU OF PUBLIC DEBT"

(Mr. OBEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I am getting increasingly worried because we have named many a building after Ronald Reagan, but we have not yet named anything significant after our existing President, George W. Bush.

In light of the fact that the estate tax bill that passed yesterday will add \$290 billion to the national debt, in light of the fact that the President has presented us with a budget deficit of \$400 billion this year, not counting what happened yesterday, in light of the fact that he is trying to blow up Social Security by borrowing an extra \$1.4 billion to finance those privatization accounts of his, I hope that Members of the House will join me next week in renaming the U.S. Bureau of Public Debt the "George W. Bush Bureau of Public Debt."

I think we ought to honor the President. He has truly earned this award.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S. 256, BANKRUPTCY ABUSE PREVENTION AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 2005

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 211 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 211

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (S. 256) to amend title 11 of the United States Code, and for other purposes. All points of order against the bill and against its consideration are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate on the bill equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary; and (2) one motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN). The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, this is a closed rule providing for consideration of S. 256, the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005.

□ 1030

The rule provides for 1 hour debate in the House, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary. It waives all points of order against the bill and its consideration, and it provides for one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 211.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, bankruptcy reform is overdue for passage. Despite its critics, S. 256, the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005, does not exclude anyone from filing for bankruptcy. Instead, it implements a simple means test to shield debtors who make below their State's median income and to determine if a higher income debtor has the ability to partially pay back his or her creditors.

To phrase it simply, bankruptcy reform is financial accountability. It protects our system against fraud and abuse. And it asks those who have the means to repay as much of their debts as they can.

For at least four previous Congresses, members have been trying to reform our "when in doubt, bail out society" in favor of personal responsibility. Bankruptcy should not be a financial planning tool, and it should be available for legitimate emergency situations only. Our bankruptcy system should fit the needs of the individual, no more, no less. With this rule, and